

BULLETIN
OF
THE MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

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THE MONCTON CONFERENCE

The dates for the Sixth Annual Conference of the M. L. I. are not yet absolutely fixed, but if possible it will take place during the third week of June. The program will be printed in the next number of the Bulletin. Good things are promised, and we hope for a large attendance from all three provinces.

THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Ontario Library Association extends a cordial invitation to the members of the Maritime Library Institute to attend its annual conference in Toronto on Easter Monday and Tuesday, March 25th-26th, 1940, with Headquarters at the Toronto Public Library, and Anniversary Dinner, to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the O. L. A. Mr. Ralph Munn, President of the American Library Association, will speak on this occasion. The theme of the conference: The Library and the Community.

R. S. V. P.
The Secretary of the O. L. A.
Toronto Public Library
Toronto, Ontario

PROGRESS REPORT OF REGIONAL LIBRARIES COMMISSION, N. S.

(When war was declared we feared that in the general "black-out" the project for Regional Libraries in Nova Scotia might be eclipsed. We were wrong; we should have had better faith in the triumph of intellectual culture over barbarism, in the final perseverance of intellectual good, and in the Director of these libraries in Nova Scotia, Miss Nora Bateson. Though pressed with countless demands upon her time Miss Bateson has graciously prepared the following Report for this issue of the Bulletin. It should give us new courage and arouse us to new incentive. Editor.)

There are two important and encouraging items to report. One is the recent, much appreciated grant of \$50,000.00 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. At a time when appeals to the Corporation are numerous and urgent, we must consider ourselves particularly fortunate. It is specified that the money is to be used in helping to build up book stocks for regional libraries as they are started in the province.

No doubt one of the reasons for this action of the Carnegie Corporation was the initiative shown by the Nova Scotia government in the establishment of a Library Commission in the legislation passed in 1939 and in its offer to give financial assistance to regional libraries at the rate of one dollar to every three of local support. This amount is likely to be raised by an amendment at the coming session of the legislature.

Substantial foundations are being laid for sound library development in this province. There is no doubt that government initiative will be followed by local initiative making regional libraries no longer a phrase and a plan but a fact.

During the past year the Regional Library plan was put before provincial, and local meetings, of many organizations such as Women's Institutes, Home and School, I. O. D. E., Women's Council, Agricultural Societies, Rotary clubs, and Ministerial Associations. In sections where the state of municipal finances made it expedient, and where interest was shown, a concentrated effort was made to put the plan before as many people as possible through meetings of local organizations and public meetings.

When the Municipal Council of Colchester County met in January the members of the Council, after hearing the plan outlined and discussed, passed a unanimous resolution for a committee to be nominated with full power to negotiate with the towns of Stewiacke and Truro and the towns and municipalities of Cumberland County, for the purpose of establishing a regional library.

The Municipal Council of Cumberland County the following day, appointed a committee to investigate and to report back at the April meeting. Many members showed keen interest.

The towns of Cumberland and Colchester Counties were addressed in the matter of a regional library for that district. In all of these meetings have been held and there are interested groups.

The Municipal Councils of Lunenburg and Queens Counties were addressed in the matter of a regional library for that district. Several members of the Lunenburg Council expressed keen interest. Most of the towns in that district are very favorable.

Some sections of the province which are or might be much interested, it is inexpedient to approach because of the unhealthy condition of their municipal finances. This is unfortunate but is, in many cases, we hope only a temporary condition.

-Nora Bateson-

MARITIME PUBLICATIONS REQUESTED BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Will any librarian who has any or all of the following publications for sale or exchange please write Mr. James B. Childs, Chief, Division of Documents, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., giving particulars:

N. S. Official Report of the Debates and Proceedings of the Legislative Council:

32nd Parliament	3rd session	1900
33rd Parliament	1st session	1902
	2nd session	1903
	3rd session	1904
	5th session	1906
34th Parliament	2nd session	1908
	3rd session	1909
	4th session	1910
35th Parliament	1st session	1912
	3rd session	1914
	4th session	1915
	5th session	1916
37th Parliament	3rd session	1923 to 38th 3rd 1928.

N. S. Legislative Council Journal and Proceedings:

53rd meeting	2nd session	1903	
	3rd session	1904	
54th meeting	4th session	1915	Pts. 1 and 2
36th meeting	1st session	1917	Pts. 1 and 2
	2nd session	1918	Pt. 2

A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN A SMALL TOWN

(L. P. Fisher Public Library, Woodstock, N. B.)

The L. P. Fisher Public Library of Woodstock, N. B. owes its existence to the generous forethought of Lewis P. Fisher, K. C., of that town, and the men he selected to carry out his ideas. By his will a fund was provided for a free public library, and his wishes were carried to a successful conclusion by his executors:-- the late Allison B. Connell, K. C., and Colonel F. H. J. Dibblee. Not only was a building provided, but books, magazines, equipment, supplies,--all the gift of the Fisher Estate.

Not content to have the library just an educational centre, the executors planned that it should be housed in a beautiful building. Built of brick on a corner of the Main Street, it has an attractive interior with main library floor finished and furnished with mahogany. A spacious basement has an Assembly room, a work room, and vault.

On December 19, 1914, the library was opened to the public,--to be open three days a week,--afternoon and evening, a period since then increased to five days a week. A librarian had been chosen and books classified by Dewey Decimal Classification,--with card catalogues and open shelves. The books had been chosen with the same care bestowed on the building, the late Dr. George H. Locke, M. A., of Toronto Public Libraries, having been asked to make the list.

The purchase of the W. O. Raymond collection of books, pamphlets, prints, etc., soon after the library was opened added valuable records of Maritime history. Later gifts from the estates of Dr. Loring W. Bailey, of Fredericton, the Honorable Charles Connell and Colonel F. H. J. Dibblee, of Woodstock, and others, have added to the library's collection of historical records and rare books.

Through the efforts of a former librarian, a Children's Story Hour was introduced in 1918, and each year, on Saturday morning during January, February, and March, children gather at the library to hear stories told by willing volunteers. For twenty-two years the Story Hour has been a library feature, and the children have shown no lack of interest.

During the development of the library, the town has passed through trying times. There is no endowment, but the executors have been generous, and the library depends on the town for a proportion of its upkeep.

Realizing a need for new books, a committee met on June 18, 1937, to discuss plans. Thus was formed the nucleus for a "Friends of the Library" Association. On November 16, 1937, a public meeting was held, an association formed, and officers appointed; the objects being to stimulate an interest in the library, to increase the service to schools, to interest the public in preserving historic records, and to help financially in book buying. A membership fee of twenty-five cents, yearly was arranged. By donations and various projects, nearly four hundred dollars has been raised by the society and spent for books and magazines. On December 19, 1939, when the library was twenty-five years old, a Birthday Party was held, and a birthday gift of new books presented to the library by "the Friends".

At present the library has about ten thousand volumes including a good collection of reference books. With a population of thirty-five hundred the library has over two thousand borrowers, including pupils who come from Agricultural districts

to attend Vocational, and High School grades. Of late years, the financial problem has been serious, and the circulation reflects the fact that needed books have not been available to meet the demand of schools and public, last year's circulation being 19,392, as compared with the library's best year, when 24, 188 books were circulated.

It is felt, however, that progress for the library is assured. A museum is contemplated, to be housed in one of the basement rooms. By our borrowers the library is looked upon as an institution in which they have a personal interest. With many people desirous of its continued improvement, progress becomes inevitable.

-Georgia E. Starratt-
Librarian.

HARRY PIERS

On January 23 Harry Piers, Curator of the Provincial Museum and Librarian of the Provincial Science Library in Halifax, passed away at his home in that city. Those who attended the M. L. I. Conference in Halifax last summer will remember how Mr. Piers enlivened our proceedings with his wit and merry philosophy of life. He had been on the staff of the Provincial Science Library for half a century, and Chief Librarian for forty years. In length of service, therefore, Mr. Piers was the senior of all librarians in the Maritimes. We shall miss his wise and spirited word and his genial presence.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

In January the librarian of the Saint John Free Public Library, Miss Estelle M. A. Vaughan, presented her annual report to the commissioners. Though there was decrease in circulation after the declaration of war this was largely offset by increased use of the library by the young people in the schools. Of the 1,775 books accessioned 326 were gifts, 88 came from Friends of the Library, and 1,290 were purchased. The outstanding gift of the season was the library presented by the Saint John branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. The medical library of the late Dr. F. H. Wetmore of Hampton was another welcome gift. The report pointed out, further, that more financial assistance was urgently needed. It was suggested that the Board of School Trustees contribute \$500 annually to the maintenance of the library.

Miss Hope Jarvis of Fredericton has been appointed assistant librarian of the Saint John Free Public Library, succeeding Mrs. Arthur Cooke (Dorothy Dobson), who recently resigned. Miss Jarvis has the degree of Bachelor in Arts from the University of New Brunswick and that of Bachelor in Library Science from Toronto University. She has served as assistant librarian in the University of New Brunswick Library, and has filled other library positions temporarily.

NEWS AND PERSONALS

Miss Marion Gilroy has resigned as Librarian of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and has accepted a position with the Regional Libraries Commission. Her resignation will take effect on the last of this month.

At St. Stephen, N. B., a ways and means committee book shower and tea, held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Ganong on January 18, added an additional 134 books for the St. Croix Community Library. This library was organised about two years ago by groups of readers in St. Stephen and Milltown, and is maintained by voluntary work and voluntary contributions.

During the winter a new library, known as the Dalhousie Public Library, was opened at Dalhousie, N. B. This was the culmination of a community effort extending over several years.